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polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO: 5; or a polynucleotide which, due to degeneracy in genetic coding, comprises variations in nucleotide sequence as compared to SEQ ID NO: 5, but which still encodes the same protein. Support for this amendment is provided in the specification at page 3, lines 28-33. Thus, no new matter is added by this amendment.

As this amendment removes all language rejected by the Examiner, withdrawal of the pending rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and subsequent allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: <u>June 27, 2003</u>

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